



General Assembly

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Request for the inclusion of an item in the provisional agenda of the fifty-sixth session

Observance of the International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict

Letter dated 27 June 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Kuwait to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to request the inclusion in the agenda of the General Assembly of an item entitled "Observance of the International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict" in accordance with rule 13 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly.

My country's delegation would like this item to be included in the provisional agenda of the fifty-sixth regular session of the General Assembly and to be allocated to plenary meetings. In accordance with rule 20 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, an explanatory memorandum is attached (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly.

(Signed) Mohammad A. Abulhasan
Permanent Representative



Annex

Explanatory memorandum

The State of Kuwait attaches special importance to the protection of the environment and to ensuring that it is not exploited in time of war. This is based on Kuwait's genuine desire for the implementation of the undertaking given by our leaders at the Millennium Summit to respect nature in the interest of our future welfare and that of our descendants and to act together to protect our common environment.

In requesting the inclusion of this item, Kuwait recalls a vivid experience that it went through some years past, when our region witnessed military conflict and war whose dire consequences had adverse repercussions on its environment.

Accordingly, it is our responsibility as States and Governments to take action to prevent the exploitation of the environment in war and military conflict in order to protect our patrimony and our common destiny in this life. We must also do so in implementation of the various international conventions and instruments in this field and especially of the provisions of article 35 of Protocol I Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949. Kuwait hopes that the discussions on this item in the General Assembly will result in agreement to proclaim 6 November each year as the International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict.
